

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A multipurpose surgical sharps handling device  
2 comprising in combination at least two of the following  
3 structures:

4       a system for temporarily holding a scalpel for no-  
5 hands passing of the scalpel between a nurse and a  
6 surgeon,

7       a gapped magnetic zone for no-hands passing of a  
8 suture needle,

9       a closable used interoperative sharps storage  
10 container, and

11       a suture pack carrier.

1       2. A sharps handling device as set forth in claim  
2, including all of said structures.

1       3. A device for no-hands transfer of a scalpel  
2 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
3 including a supporting base,

4       a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
5 base,

6       a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
7 opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
8 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
9 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
10 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
11 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
12 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
13 grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
14 movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
15 grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
16 force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a  
17 gripped position while the device is handled by a  
18 surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a

19 vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
20 surgeon.

1       4. A device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the  
2 body includes a finger-grip area to enable the nurse to  
3 grasp the device.

1       5. A device as set forth in claim 4, including  
2 laterally extending finger guards on opposite sides of an  
3 area between the grip and the receiver.

1       6. A device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the  
2 finger guards extend in a plane above the location of a  
3 scalpel in the receiver and in the grip.

1       7. A device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the  
2 finger guards have portions remote from said area that  
3 extend downward from said plane.

1       8. A device as set forth in claim 4, wherein the  
2 finger grip area has a wasp waist configuration to  
3 facilitate grasping of the device.

1       9. A device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the  
2 blade receiver includes a narrow throat area to laterally  
3 confine the scalpel blade.

1       10. A device as set forth in claim 9, wherein the  
2 throat area includes a thin membrane that is adapted to  
3 be cut by the scalpel blade.

1       11. A device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the  
2 base includes a needle presentation zone including an  
3 open slot and magnetic sheet material on opposite sides

4 of said slot, said slot being adapted to receive the jaws  
5 of a needle holder.

1 12. A device as set forth in claim 3, including a  
2 restraining portion that prevents a scalpel blade from  
3 being released in an upward direction.

1 13. A multi-purpose surgical sharps handling device  
2 comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body  
3 including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps  
4 receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade  
5 receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate  
6 to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby  
7 a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle  
8 is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped,  
9 the receiving chamber being adjacent said blade receiving  
10 zone and remote from said gripping area.

1 14. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 13, wherein said receiving container has a  
3 hinged cover and a releasable latch to maintain said  
4 cover closed on said container.

1 15. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 13, wherein said receiving container comprises a  
3 shallow box including a bottom wall, said bottom wall  
4 having a magnetic sheet for holding sharps.

1 16. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 15, wherein said magnetic sheet includes a grid  
3 to facilitate counting of sharps received in said  
4 container.

1 17. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 16, including a cover for said container, said

3      cover being sufficiently transparent to permit counting  
4      of sharps in said container when said cover is closed.

1            18. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 13, including finger guards on opposite sides of  
3      said scalpel holder.

1            19. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 13, wherein said scalpel holder has a wasp waist  
3      area to obtain a positive finger hold of the device.

1            20. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 13, wherein said scalpel holder includes a  
3      magnetic needle holding area having an open slot, the  
4      magnetic holding area straddling said slot.

1            21. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 13, wherein the scalpel holder and sharps  
3      receiving container are accessible from a common face of  
4      the device.

1            22. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 21, including a suture pack mounting zone on a  
3      face of said device opposite said common face.

1            23. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 22, wherein said mounting zone is partially  
3      formed by legs on said opposite face.

1            24. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2      in claim 23, wherein said legs include pressure-sensitive  
3      adhesive for adhering said device to a supporting  
4      surface.

1        25. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 13, including a magnetic sheet disposed in said  
3 container to magnetically retain sharps in said  
4 container.

1        26. A surgical sharps handling device as set forth  
2 in claim 25, including a grid visually dividing the  
3 magnetic sheet in the container to facilitate counting of  
4 sharps deposited therein.

1        27. A device as set forth in claim 9, including a  
2 V-shaped notch for receiving and guiding the scalpel  
3 blade.

1        28. A device as set forth in claim 13, wherein a  
2 portion of said body has an exterior non-slip surface.